Banning Genetically Modified Crops.

†*455. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports of adverse-effects of the crops developed through gene modification on human life have come to light;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that keeping in view the results of the above experiment, many countries of the world have banned them; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries and the decisions taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Globally, all crops developed through gene modification commonly referred to as GM crops or transgenic crops are tested extensively for their impact on the environment as well as on human and animal health through a rigorous regulatory mechanism before regarding they are approved for commercial cultivation. There have been no scientifically validated adverse reports/effects of the approved GM crops on human health.

(c) No report regarding banning of the GM crops in any Country on the ground of adverse-effects of the crops on human health have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Milk Production in rural areas

†*456.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk production can be made an import industry in rural areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that landless and casual agricultural labourers can be engaged in the said industry;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether several problems may arise in promoting this industry in villages such as import of milk, powder milk and competition, etc.; and

(e) the steps Government have taken to resolve these problems and the role of Government in this regard at present?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Milk production is already an important source of income generation in rural areas. As per the study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research, nearly 75% of the rural households engaged in dairying are landless labourers and marginal or small farmers. Government of India is making continuous and sustained efforts to augment milk production through the following schemes:

(a) Intensive Dairy Development Programme

(b) Strengthening Infrastructrue for Quality and Clean Milk Production

(c) Assistance to Cooperatives

(d) Venture Capital Fund for Dairy and Poultry

(e) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

(f) Livestock Health and Disease Control

(g) Assistance to State for Feed and Fodder Development

(d) and (e) India has become a net exporter of dairy products in recent years. Greater stress is being laid on improvement in quality of milk and milk products to make them safe in domestic market as well as more acceptable at international level.

Rate Increase for Diagnostic Tests

*457. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: